

June 3, 2020

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session virtually via Zoom web conferencing Wednesday June 3, 2020 at 9 AM.

Present: Mayor Dermody, Jessica Romine and Mark Kosior

Absent: None

Pledge of Allegiance

Alexis Kosior led the Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

Each member received an advance copy of the minutes from the May 19, 2020 meeting. Mayor Dermody asked if there were any additions or corrections.

Motion/Vote – Approval of Minutes

Ms. Romine moved to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Mayor Dermody noted that with the virtual meetings he is happy to see that there were over 1,000 viewers for the City Council Meeting on Monday June 1, 2020.

Clerk-Treasurer

Claims Approval

Clerk-Treasurer Courtney Parthun presented Payroll from May 29, 2020 in the amount of \$399,175.87.

Motion/Vote – Approve Payroll 5-29-20

Mr. Kosior moved to approve Payroll from May 29, 2020 in the amount of \$399,175.87; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

The Clerk-Treasurer presented Fire Fitness Payroll from May 22, 2020 in the amount of \$12,072.72.

Motion/Vote – Approve Fire Fitness Payroll 5-22-20

Mr. Kosior moved to approve Fire Fitness Payroll from May 22, 2020 in the amount of \$12,072.72; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

The Clerk-Treasurer presented Civil City Claims in the amount of \$136,463.83.

Motion/Vote – Approve Civil City Claims

Mr. Kosior moved to approve Civil City Claims in the amount of \$136,463.83; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

The Clerk-Treasurer presented Sewage Claims in the amount of \$116,206.07.

Motion/Vote – Approve Sewage Claims

Ms. Romine moved to approve Sewage Claims in the amount of \$116,206.07; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

The Clerk-Treasurer presented Water Claims in the amount of \$63,582.28. Discussion was held regarding NSF and the fees associated with them.

Motion/Vote – Approve Water Claims

Mr. Kosior moved to approve the Water Claims in the amount of \$63,582.28; motion seconded by Ms., Romine and unanimously carried.

Department Reports

Fire: Fire Chief Andy Snyder mentioned that Maxwell Fisher started on June 1, 2020. Mr. Fisher is currently intermediate training and will go to academy in August.

Police: Police Chief Paul Brettin stated they will be swearing in Aaron Stewart at the end of the meeting. He will attend pre-basic training next week and is scheduled for academy August 3, 2020.

Mayor Dermody thanked the Police, Fire and Street Departments for blocking off the entrance into the City on Sunday, May 31, 2020 due to the intel received regarding possible violence and rioting in the area. Mayor Dermody also thanked City Attorney Nick Otis for his work on the Executive Order for curfew. Mayor Dermody stated our thoughts and prayers go out to George Floyd's family. The City of La Porte supports peaceful protest but will not allow violence and looting.

Chief Brettin thanked the Mayor for being proactive in the Community in response to the death of George Floyd and stated it has been noticed by employees and residents, alike.

Park: Park Director Mark Schreiber noted Park restrooms are now open. Schreiber also listed several projects underway in the Park Department including: work on a new playground at Clark Park has begun, bids went out for tennis court repairs as well as a new kayak launch on Stone Lake and finally, Stone Lake Lakeshore Improvement Project will be rebid. Mr. Schreiber and the Park Department are grateful for receiving such a strong response to volunteer opportunities at the Park Department.

Mayor Dermody mentioned that Jerry Jackson will be on the next Ask Me Anything today at 3pm.

Sewage: Wastewater Director Jerry Jackson gave a brief explanation on the Basement Back-up Grant Program. He stated the City has many aging combined sewers and when we get a hard rain, such as the one we had the previous week, sewage can back up into residents' basements. To complete sewage separation for the entire City of La Porte, Mr. Jackson noted it would cost approximately \$70 to \$80 million dollars. This grant opportunity allots eligible residents \$1,500 to correct the issue. Applications are online.

New Business

Request to Use: Tour de La Porte

Mike Riehle, President of Chambers Services with La Porte Economic Advancement Partnership asked on behalf of the YMCA for road closures on August 22, 2020 for the Tour de La Porte from 6 AM to 10 AM. The YMCA has taken over the reigns on this event from the La Porte Healthcare Foundation who has previously put on the event. The YMCA is currently looking for volunteers. Mr. Kosior stated this is a great event and a great representation of our City.

Motion/Vote – Approve Request to Use: Tour de La Porte

Mr. Kosior moved to approve the Request for road closures on August 22, 2020 for the Tour de La Porte, as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Resignation Letter

Police Chief Brettin presented a resignation letter from Sergeant Brett Airy effective June 3, 2020. He will be going to South Bend Police Department.

Mayor Dermody thanked Sergeant Brett Airy for his years of service and wished him well.

Motion/Vote – Accept Resignation

Mr. Kosior moved to accept the Resignation from Sergeant Brett Airy as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Request to Hire

Police Chief Brettin asked the Board for permission to fill the vacancy created by the resignation.

Motion/ Vote – Approve Request to Hire: Police

Ms. Romine moved to approve the request to hire and instructed the Police Merit Commission to begin the necessary procedures to fill any and all vacancies in rank and positions created by the resignation; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Request to Promote

Police Chief Brettin stated Brett Airy was a Sergeant and is requesting to promote a Corporal to Sergeant and a Patrolman to Corporal. With each promotion comes more responsibilities and a 5% pay increase. Promotions are based on promotion testing and past performance. Officers will be notified, and a press release will be sent out.

Motion/Vote – Approve Request to Promote

Mr. Kosior moved to approve the Request to Promote as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Mayor Dermody mentioned 701 Maple Avenue has had 13 Police calls in the last week which is unacceptable and noted that the landlord has been put on notice.

Recommendation Maintenance Agreement

Tom Casey, City Planner, stated the maintenance agreement pertains to the following areas: New Porte Landing, the Depot and Plaza 618. The City would pay for the maintenance at Plaza 618 and the Depot and the RDC would need to approve maintenance costs for New Porte Landing. Mr. Casey is recommending Lakeshore Landscaping out of the four quotes because they were the most responsive to the RFQ.

Downtown Director Angela Rose noted that Lakeshore Landscaping does random drug testing for all their employees, they perform safety training, they e-verify all employees and they have extensive experience in and around our community and are very qualified.

Motion/Vote – Approve Recommendation for Maintenance Agreement

Ms. Romine moved to approve Lakeshore Landscaping for the Maintenance Agreement as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Recommendation for Acceptance: Chessie Trail Phase 1

Nick Minich, City Engineer, asked the Board to accept and sign the INDOT Recommendation for Acceptance form to close out Phase I of Chessie Trail.

Motion/Vote – Approve Recommendation for Acceptance: Chessie Trail Phase 1

Mr. Kosior moved to approve the Recommendation for Acceptance and sign the INDOT form to close out Phase 1 of the Chessie Trail as presented; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Basement Back-Up Grant

Jerry Jackson, Wastewater Superintendent, presented a Basement Back-Up Grant for 1404 J Street. The homeowners stated they were required to install a sump pump and the total amount of the repair was \$2,649.60. The City, if approved, would pay \$1,500 toward the total amount of the repair.

Motion/Vote – Approve Basement Back-Up Grant: 1404 J St.

Ms. Romine moved to approve the Basement Back-Up Grant as presented; motion seconded by Mr. Kosior and unanimously carried.

Unfinished Business

None

Announcements

Summer clean-up will be July 13 - July 17, 2020. RTS will pick-up regularly scheduled garbage days and will accept regular garbage (no limit on bags), mattresses, furniture, and carpet in rolls of 3 to 4 feet, for example. RTS will not take piles of garbage outside of bags, piles of construction materials, car parts, hazardous waste, electronics, etc. For more information on what is or is not allowed for Summer Clean-up, please visit www.CityofLaPorte.com.

Farmer's Market had their opening day on May 23, 2020.

Public Comment

Darlene Jesch asked how much it cost to participate in the Farmer’s Market. Angela Rose stated there is a fee of \$25 per Saturday or \$250 for the entire season for a 10’x10’ space.

Dusty Schoof asked which officers would be promoted and the Mayor stated it would be announced tomorrow.

Kristina McCarty asked how much out-of-pocket cost is there for the homeowner for the Basement Back-up Program and Jerry Jackson stated it varies from case to case.

Swearing in of New Police Officer

Police Chief Brettin swore in the New Police Officer, Aaron Stewart on the stairs outside City Hall. He is 23 years old, from Rolling Prairie, and previously worked at the La Porte County Jail. He is very excited for this opportunity.

Adjourn

There being no further business, Mr. Kosior moved to adjourn; motion seconded by Ms. Romine and unanimously carried.

Approve: _____
Thomas P. Dermody, Mayor

Attest: _____
Courtney Parthun, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: June 16, 2020